THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) At present, there is no proposal under consideration regarding Special Category Status of Chhattisgarh.

Special Status to Bihar

79. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI M. P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Bihar Chief Minister has demanded a "Special Status" for Bihar;

(b) if so, what is meant by "Special Status" to a State and which are the States that has been given a special status at present; and

(c) the reaction of Government to the Bihar Chief Minister's demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The grant of Special Category Status entails the states to have Special treatment in the allocation of Normal Central Assistance as well as the terms on which Central Assistance is extended to them. The apportionment of Normal Central Assistance is done on a 30:70 ratio between Special Category States and Non-Special Category States. Grant of Special Category Status entails the State of Normal Central Assistance in a 90:10 grant:loan ratio, while it is 30:70 grant:loan ratio for Non-Special Category States. Even though at present, the loan component is not provided by the Central Government, the *interse* apportionment amongst the States is still done based on the gross amount including the loan portion. There are 11 States at present which have been declared as Special Category States *viz*., Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand.

(c) The proposal of Bihar for Special Category Status is under examination of the Government.

Winding up of NAC

80. SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had in 2004 constituted a National Advisory Council (NAC) under the aegis of Prime Minister's Office;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the terms and specific responsibilities, if any, entrusted to the NAC;

(c) whether it is a fact that the NAC ceased to exist after March 31, 2008;

(d) if so, the details of the Notification issued, if any, for winding up of the NAC;

(e) the details of cost incurred from the exchequer, year-wise;

(f) whether any review of out-come of NAC has been carried out;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of order dated 31.05.2004 issued in this regard is enclosed as Statement-I. (*See* below)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No notification was issued for winding up of the National Advisory Council. However, the tenure of the Members of National Advisory Council was extended upto 31.03.2008.

(e) Statement in this regard enclosed as Statement-II. (*See* below)

(f) to (h) In this regard, periodic reports were submitted for perusal of the Prime Minister on 23.12.2006, 28.06.2007 and 27.12.2007.

Statement-I

Details of NAC constituted by Government

No. 631/2/I/2004-Cab.
Government of India
Cabinet Secretariat

New Delhi, the May 31,2004

ORDER

Sub: Constitution of a National Advisory Council (NAC) to monitor the implementation of the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government.

The Government has decided to constitute a National Advisory Council (NAC) to oversee the implementation of the National Common Minimum Programme of the Government.

2. The NAC would be headed by a Chairperson with the rank and status of a Union Cabinet Minister and Shall consist of such number of Members, not exceeding 20, as may be nominated by the Prime Minister in consultation with the Chairperson.

3. The functions of the National Advisory Council would be as follows:—

(a) To monitor the progress of the implementation of the Common Minimum Programme;

(b) To provide inputs for the formulation of policy by the Government and to provide support to the Government in its legislative business.

4. The Council would be supported by a Secretariat with the necessary complement of officers and staff who shall be responsible to the Chairperson. The Council may engage services of such

experts and academics, as required, to assist in its work. The Council may invite such person or persons, as it may deem fit, to participate in its deliberations.

5. The Council would be provided adequate and appropriate office space by the Central Government. All expenditure incurred in connection with the functioning of the Council would be met by the Central Government and provided through the PMO.

6. The expenditure incurred for the functioning of the Council would be met by the Central Government.

7. The Council would meet at least once every quarter and more frequently, if necessary and would be serviced by the Prime Minister's Office.

Sd/-
(K.L. Sharma)
Deputy Secretary to Cabinet

Statement-II

Details of expenditure incurred from the exchequer (year-wise) in respect of National Advisory Council

(figures in thousands of rupees)

Head of Account	Expenditure incurred				
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Salaries	1701	3296	2938	3188	741
OTA	32	138	110	116	30
Medical Treatment	0	10	8	32	22
Domestic Travel Expenses	1332	1406	470	614	0
Travel Expenses	443	553	291	0	0
Office Expenses	3009	1367	1198	1118	251
BCTT	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	6517	6770	5015	5068	1044

Inter-State project of NEC

81. SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware that the Planning Commission is yet to clear the inter-state projects of North Eastern Council (NEC) 'Improvement of NLKB road along with construction of bridges over Lohit and Khabolu river' in Assam;